

Application No. 10/643,952
Amendment dated January 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed October 28, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

For the Abstract of the Disclosure, please substitute the following amended paragraph:

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention relates to an operating method for fluorescent lamps and a corresponding ballast, in which the brightness of the fluorescent lamps (LP) is set to the desired value by varying the switching frequency of the inverter switches (T1, T2). In order to prevent oscillations between different operating states in a critical dimming range, the power consumption of the fluorescent lamps (LP) is stabilized according to the invention by ~~means~~ way of an additional control loop.